In the claims:

Please cancel claims 1-18 without disclaimer or prejudice to applicants' right to pursue the subject matter of these claims in a future continuation or divisional application.

Please add new claims 235-281 as follows:

--235. (New) A process involving competitive binding for identifying a chemical compound which specifically binds to a mammalian SNORF72 receptor which comprises separately contacting cells expressing on their cell surface the mammalian SNORF72 receptor, or a membrane preparation from such cells, wherein such cells do not normally express the mammalian SNORF72 receptor, with both the chemical compound and a second chemical compound known to bind to the receptor, and with only the second chemical compound, under conditions suitable for binding of such compounds to the receptor, and detecting specific binding of the chemical compound to the mammalian SNORF72 receptor, a decrease in the binding of the second chemical compound to the mammalian SNORF72 receptor in the presence of the chemical compound being tested indicating that such chemical compound binds to the mammalian SNORF72 receptor.--

--236. (New) The process of claim 235, wherein the mammalian SNORF72 receptor is a human SNORF72 receptor.--

--237. (New) The process of claim 235, wherein the mammalian SNORF72 receptor is a rat SNORF72 receptor.--

--238. (New) The process of claim 235, wherein the cell is an insect cell.--

--239. (New) The process of claim 235, wherein the cell is a mammalian cell.--

--240. (New) The process of claim 239, wherein the cell is nonneuronal in origin.--

--241. (New) The process of claim 240, wherein the nonneuronal cell is a COS-7 cell, a 293 human embryonic kidney cell, a CHO cell, a NIH-3T3 cell, a mouse Y1 cell, or a LM(tk-) cell.--

B' cont.

--242. (New) The process of claim 241, wherein the compound is not previously known to bind to a mammalian SNORF72 receptor.--

--243. (New) A method of screening a plurality of chemical compounds not known to bind to a mammalian SNORF72 receptor to identify a compound which specifically binds to the mammalian SNORF72 receptor, which comprises

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(a) contacting cells transfected with, and expressing, DNA encoding the mammalian SNORF72 receptor, or a membrane preparation from such cells, with a compound known to bind specifically to the mammalian SNORF72 receptor;

(b) contacting the cells or the membrane preparation of step (a) with the plurality of compounds not known to bind specifically to the mammalian

SNORF72 receptor, under conditions permitting binding of compounds known to bind to the mammalian SNORF72 receptor;

(c) determining whether the binding of the compound known to bind to the mammalian SNORF72 receptor is reduced in the presence of the plurality of compounds, relative to the binding of the compound in the absence of the plurality of compounds; and if so

(d) separately determining the binding to the mammalian SNORF72 receptor of each compound included in the plurality of compounds, so as to thereby identify any compound included therein which specifically binds to the mammalian SNORF72 receptor.--

--244. (New) The method of claim 243, wherein the mammalian SNORF72 receptor is a human SNORF72 receptor.--

--245. (New) The method of claim 243, wherein the mammalian SNORF72 receptor is a rat SNORF72 receptor.--

--246. (New) The method of claim 243, wherein the cell is a mammalian cell.--

--247. (New) The method of claim 246, wherein the mammalian cell is non-neuronal in origin.--

--248. (New) The method of claim 247, wherein the non-neuronal cell is a COS-7 cell, a 293 human embryonic kidney cell, a LM(tk-) cell, a CHO cell, a mouse Y1

cell, or a NIH-3T3 cell.--

--249. (New) A process for determining whether a chemical compound is a mammalian SNORF72 receptor antagonist which comprises contacting cells transfected with and expressing DNA encoding the mammalian SNORF72 receptor with the compound in the presence of a known mammalian SNORF72 receptor agonist, under conditions permitting the activation of the mammalian SNORF72 receptor, and detecting any decrease in mammalian SNORF72 receptor activity, so as to thereby determine whether the compound is a mammalian SNORF72 receptor antagonist.--

--250. (New) The process of claim 249, wherein the mammalian SNORF72 receptor is a human SNORF72 receptor.--

--251. (New) The process of claim 249, wherein the mammalian SNORF72 receptor is a rat SNORF72 receptor.--

--252. (New) A composition which comprises an amount of a mammalian SNORF72 receptor antagonist determined by the process of claim 249 effective to reduce activity of a mammalian SNORF72 receptor and a carrier.--

--253. (New) The composition of claim 252, wherein the mammalian SNORF72 receptor antagonist is not previously known.--

--254. (New) A process for determining whether a chemical compound specifically binds to and inhibits activation of a mammalian SNORF72 receptor, which comprises separately contacting cells producing a second messenger response and expressing on their cell

surface the mammalian SNORF72 receptor, wherein such cells do not normally express the mammalian SNORF72 receptor, with both the chemical compound and a second chemical compound known to activate the mammalian SNORF72 receptor, and with only the second chemical compound, under conditions suitable for activation of the mammalian SNORF72 receptor, and measuring the second messenger response in the presence of only the second chemical compound and in the presence of both the second chemical compound and the chemical compound, a smaller change in the second messenger response in the presence of both the chemical compound and the second chemical compound than in the presence of only the second chemical compound indicating that the chemical compound inhibits activation of the mammalian SNORF72 receptor.--

B1 cnt.

--255. (New) The process of claim 254, wherein the second messenger response comprises chloride channel activation and the change in second messenger response is a smaller increase in the level of chloride current in the presence of both the chemical compound and the second chemical compound than in the presence of only the second chemical compound.--

--256. (New) The process of claim 254, wherein the second messenger response comprises change in intracellular calcium levels and the change in second messenger response is a smaller increase in the measure of intracellular calcium in the presence of both the chemical compound and the second chemical compound than in the presence of only the second chemical compound.--

--257. (New) The process of claim 254, wherein the second messenger response comprises release of inositol phosphate and the change in second messenger response is a smaller increase in the level of inositol phosphate in the presence of both the chemical compound and the second chemical compound than in the presence of only the second chemical compound.--

--258. (New) A process of any of claims 254, 255, 256 or 257, wherein the mammalian SNORF72 receptor is a human SNORF72 receptor.--

--259. (New) A process of any of claims 254, 255, 256 or 257, wherein the mammalian SNORF72 receptor is a rat SNORF72 receptor.--

--260. (New) The process of claim 254, wherein the cell is an insect cell.--

--261. (New) The process of claim 254, wherein the cell is a mammalian cell.--

--262. (New) The process of claim 261, wherein the mammalian cell is nonneuronal in origin.--

--263. (New) The process of claim 262, wherein the nonneuronal cell is a COS-7 cell, a CHO cell, a 293 human embryonic kidney cell, a NIH-3T3 cell or a LM(tk-) cell.--

--264. (New) A composition which comprises an amount of a mammalian SNORF72 receptor antagonist determined to be such by the process of claim 254, 255, 256 or 257,

effective to reduce activity of the mammalian SNORF72 receptor and a carrier.--

--265. (New) The composition of claim 264, wherein the mammalian SNORF72 receptor antagonist is not previously known.--

--266. (New) A method of screening a plurality of chemical compounds not known to inhibit activation of a mammalian SNORF72 receptor to identify a compound which inhibits the activation of the mammalian SNORF72 receptor, which comprises:

(a) contacting cells transfected with and expressing the mammalian SNORF72 receptor with the plurality of compounds in the presence of a known mammalian SNORF72 receptor agonist, under conditions permitting activation of the mammalian SNORF72 receptor;

(b) determining whether the extent or amount of activation of the mammalian SNORF72 receptor is reduced in the presence of one or more of the compounds, relative to the extent or amount of activation of the mammalian SNORF72 receptor in the absence of such one or more compounds; and if so

(c) separately determining whether each such compound inhibits activation of the mammalian SNORF72 receptor for each compound included in the plurality of compounds, so as to thereby identify any compound included in such plurality of

compounds which inhibits the activation of the mammalian SNORF72 receptor.--

--267. (New) The method of claim 266, wherein the mammalian SNORF72 receptor is a human SNORF72 receptor.--

--268. (New) The method of claim 266, wherein the mammalian SNORF72 receptor is a rat SNORF72 receptor.--

--269. (New) The method of claim 266, wherein the cell is a mammalian cell.--

--270. (New) The method of claim 269, wherein the mammalian cell is non-neuronal in origin.--

--271. (New) The method of claim 270, wherein the non-neuronal cell is a COS-7 cell, a 293 human embryonic kidney cell, a LM(tk-) cell or a NIH-3T3 cell.--

--272. (New) A composition comprising a compound identified by the method of claim 266, 267 or 268 in an amount effective to decrease mammalian SNORF72 receptor activity and a carrier.--

--273. (New) A process for making a composition of matter which specifically binds to a mammalian SNORF72 receptor which comprises identifying a chemical compound using the process of any of claim 235 or 243 and then synthesizing the chemical compound or a novel structural and functional analog or homolog thereof.--

--274. (New) The process of claim 273, wherein the mammalian SNORF72 receptor is a human SNORF72 receptor.--

--275. (New) The process of claim 273, wherein the mammalian SNORF72 receptor is rat SNORF72 receptor.--

--276. (New) A process for preparing a composition which comprises identifying a chemical compound by the process of any of claim 235 or 243, or a novel structural and functional analog or homolog thereof, recovering the compound free of any receptor, and admixing a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.--

--277. (New) The process of claim 276, wherein the mammalian SNORF72 receptor is a human SNORF72 receptor.--

--278. (New) The process of claim 276, wherein the mammalian SNORF72 receptor is a rat SNORF72 receptor.--

--279. (New) A process for preparing a composition which comprises identifying a chemical compound by the process of any of claim 249, 254 or 266, or a novel structural and functional analog or homolog thereof, recovering the compound free of any receptor, and admixing a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.--

--280. (New) The process of claim 279, wherein the mammalian SNORF72 receptor is a human SNORF72 receptor.--

--281. (New) The process of claim 279, wherein the mammalian SNORF72 receptor is a rat SNORF72 receptor.--

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 were pending in the subject application. By this